

skin of his hands, he stated positively that nothing of the kind had occurred to his knowledge. The migration of the piece of steel in this instance can be very easily accounted for by considering that it was transported within the arteries. In the first instance it must have penetrated the facial artery just above the point where it is given off from the external carotid, or else entered directly into the external carotid itself. In either case, the facial artery being nearly vertical at this point, it could have sunk by its sheer weight, against the blood current, down the external carotid and common carotid to the innominate, whence, the subclavian opening out almost horizontally, it could have been swept by the blood current into that artery, thence down the arm through the axillary, brachial and radial and finally entered the dorsalis indicis in which it was carried until the lumen of the vessel became too small for it to go further. Then by the *vis a tergo* and muscular action of the hand, it worked out of the artery and formed the tumor under the skin. The patient said he had noticed it only two or three days before requesting its removal.

IRVING MCNEIL, M.D.

DEKALB, ILL., Nov. 22, 1906.

To the Editor:—Your article on the "Migratory Needle" has just been noted. In one case, to my positive knowledge, a needle lay within the pericardial membrane and parallel to the heart, in a slaughtered beef. I had the specimen in my office for years. In another case the needle had transfixed the apex of the heart of a chicken, which, when killed, showed no sign of interference with the heart or the condition of the fowl. Nearly one-half the length of the needle had passed transversely through the apex of the heart. Reference can be given to those who made the discovery. In both instances the needles had doubtless been swallowed and had penetrated the tissues until they occupied the position as found.

J. M. POSTLE, M.D.

Biographical Cyclopedic of Medical Men.

BALTIMORE, NOV. 28, 1906.

To the Editor:—I am at present engaged in a piece of work which must be a matter of profound interest to every practitioner in the country, and for this reason I turn to THE JOURNAL to secure the coöperation of its readers.

I am preparing a Cyclopedic of American Medical Biography of the worthies who have passed away in this country and in Canada from the earliest times down to the present, including such living practitioners as have retired from active service.

The Cyclopedic will be issued in several volumes, the names being given in alphabetical order. I shall have the coöperation of some of the best men in the country, men who have already made a reputation as students of medical history.

I want in this work to give a full account of the lives, something of the personalities of the medical or surgical activities, and of the writings of all our leading men. I want also to include a brief sketch of the lives of men who have been very prominent in their own locality without, however, having been widely known as writers or original investigators. There are a number of men who have powerfully influenced the trend of medical and surgical thought who have never put a pen to paper to put their work before the profession.

In prosecuting this work, I shall have the aid of men who will take up the country by states, as well as those who will take up the various specialists. I want, in order to further my aim, to get hold of all the biographies that I can lay hands on which have been published in medical journals or elsewhere. I want also photographs, or photographs of pictures of these men.

It is for this reason I write to you, to ask the profession at large, to send me names, personal communications or biographies which they may have on their shelves and can spare, or medical journals with references to biographies. I shall appreciate as a special personal favor any such communications.

The work will take two, perhaps three years, to complete. I will write later and give you the names of my collaborators, and ask for suggestions as to certain neighborhoods which may prove difficult to cover in this way. I will, also, at a still

later date, publish a list of the names to be included in the biography, asking for further suggestions, that I may fill in all the gaps. The work is an ambitious one and is to be more elaborate than any which has yet appeared. I purpose to make the biographies anywhere from 10 or 15 lines up to as many pages; in the latter case using freely such biographies as Thacher's published in 1828. I shall be glad if any who are willing to help in this matter will write directly to me at 1418 Eutaw Place, Baltimore.

HOWARD A. KELLY.

Professional Loyalty.

SULLIVAN, MO., Nov. 17, 1906.

To the Editor:—About six months ago Dr. J. P. Dunigan of this place was sued for \$30,000 damages for alleged failure to replace a dislocated hip. Trial was postponed once, and last week plaintiff took change of venue to Steelville, where the case will be called probably next month. Every physician in the county, including those subpoenaed by plaintiff, was on the side of the defendant, which caused the following remark from plaintiff's lawyer: This is the first and only place we have ever seen or heard of where all the doctors "stick" together.

O. N. SCHUDE, M.D.

[The progress of organization in this country is having excellent results in the elimination of jealousy and strife among physicians, and the above is only one example of this fact. Often in the past it has been common for a physician to testify against another, against whom a malpractice suit had been started, even when facts had to be juggled to enable him to do so. Happily, such conditions are now becoming more rare.—Ed.]

Cleansing Blood Pipettes.

TOLEDO, OHIO, Nov. 29, 1906.

To the Editor:—In your last issue I read Dr. Benmosche's article describing the use of a camera bulb to cleanse blood pipettes. It may be of some interest to readers of THE JOURNAL to know that an ordinary rubber ear syringe will be more satisfactory for this purpose, and for many it is more easily obtainable. For some time I have been using one for the same purposes as described by Dr. Benmosche and have found that the end of the pipette fits into the rubber "tit" of the bulb ear syringe better, and with less likelihood of leakage of air and fluid, than with any other bulb I have used.

GEORGE H. JONES.

Medical Legislation

Endorses National Health Department and Insurance Fee Campaign.—The Ohio Valley Medical Society has unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, The search after knowledge, largely among medical men, has, in recent years, brought to light many valuable truths relative to the prevention and cure of disease and the relief of suffering, making it incumbent on the medical profession to provide for the well-being of society, both in time of peace and war; and

WHEREAS, In caring for the soldiers of the United States and protecting the citizens at home from contagious and infectious diseases, during the late Spanish-American War, our experience demonstrated that the medical departments of the Army and of the Navy were handicapped in the great work in hand by superior officers, not that they were opposed to the ideas of the medical department, but that they were either indifferent or did not realize the importance of the undertaking; and

WHEREAS, The American Medical Association has a National Legislative Council, of which Dr. Charles A. L. Reed, Cincinnati, is chairman; now be it

Resolved, That the Ohio Valley Medical Society, in council assembled, endorses the action taken by the National Legislative Council at its session held in the city of Washington, in January last, on the following subjects:

(a) The question of a Department of Public Health, with a representative in the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

(b) The Army and Navy Reorganization Bill, and such other bills as may present themselves to the National Legislative Body.

And be it further
Resolved, That we heartily endorse the action taken by the Kentucky State Medical Association at its meeting in Owensboro, and by other state organizations, and hereby pledge ourselves to resist the efforts of insurance companies to lower the fee for medical examinations, and we pledge our support to the International Physicians' Association.

C. Z. AUD,

Member of the National Legislative Council for Kentucky.